SUPPLEMENT TO THE

BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL

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Every member is requested to preserve the Draft Interim Report of the Medical Planning Commission, which is published in the opening pages of the Journal this week, and to which reference is made below.

British Medical Association

SUPPLEMENTARY ANNUAL REPORT OF COUNCIL, 1941-2

MEDICAL PLANNING COMMISSION

The Medical Planning Commission has issued for the consideration of its constituent bodies and the profession generally a draft interim report which will be found in the *Journal* on pages 743 to 753. The report does not contain conclusions or recommendations of the Commission, but is a co-ordinated draft interim report prepared by the committees of the Commission, and circulated with the object of provoking discussion and criticism before the Commission proceeds to formulate definite principles concerning the future of medical practice and the organization and reorganization of medical services.

GENERAL PRACTICE

Pay of Fire Service M.O.s

The Council has agreed to the following arrangements proposed by the Ministry of Home Security:

1. The selection of the Post Office Medical Officer for the purpose of the medical examination of members of the National Fire Service, and for attendance upon members of the service who are outside the N.H.I. Acts and are entitled to medical treatment, where other arrangements approved by the Regional Commissioners are not in operation.

2. The remuneration for the work to be as follows: (*a*) Medical examinations.—(i) On entry to the National Fire Service (all men and women should be medically examined on entry, except those recruited under the provisions of the National Service, Act, 1941); (ii) to decide whether a man who is sick or has been injured is permanently incapacitated or is likely to become fit to render regular and efficient service in any capacity, or to resume duty at all; (iii) in cases where there are grounds for suspecting that sick leave privileges are being abused or where for any other reason a special medical examination is required; (iv) of ex-regular firemen for pension purposes. (*b*) Medical treatment of ex-regular firemen whose conditions of service, preserved under the National Fire Service (General) Regulations, entitle them to such treatment outside the provisions of the National Health Insurance Acts. (*c*) The payment of a fee of 5s. for each examination in the cases referred to in paragraph (*a*) above. Where, exceptionally, a fuller report and examination are required a fee not exceeding 10s. 6d. may be paid. (*d*) A capitation fee of 12s. for each man brought under the arrangement referred to in paragraph (*b*), this fee to cover treatment and the supply of ordinary drugs and dressings.

Mileage is to be paid where the Post Office Medical Officer is required to attend National Fire Service personnel outside the radius of 3 miles from the normal focus of the area of the Post Office Medical Officer. The Council has sought an assurance that the capitation fee of 12s. for the medical treatment of ex-regular firemen whose conditions of service, preserved under the National Fire Service (General) Regulations, entitle them to such treatment outside the provisions of the National Health Insurance Acts, applies only to firemen whose incomes do not exceed £250 per annum.

Reports on Civil Defence Workers

The Council was informed that the Home Office was proposing to invite Post Office Medical Officers to act for them when medical reports were required in cases of illness or injury among civil defence workers and war police reserve members entitled to sick pay, and to pay 5s. for any such routine report. Where a fuller report and examination are required a fee not exceeding 10s. 6d. would be allowed at the discretion of the local authority. This arrangement was subject to the proviso that, where in the opinion of the Regional Commissioner existing arrangements for these purposes are satisfactory—e.g., where the necessary services are provided by former Fire Brigade medical officers or police surgeons—such arrangements may be continued with any adjustments that may be necessary. The Council has raised no objection to the selection of the Post Office Medical Officer for this work and to the remuneration proposed.

The Council has also considered the question of utilizing the services of Post Office Medical Officers: (*a*) for reporting on members of the Observer Corps absent from duty owing to sickness or injury; and (*b*) for examining new entrants to industry referred to them by the labour exchange. The Council has expressed the opinion that the practitioner selected for this work should be nominated by the Local Medical War Committee, as it is undesirable that the selection should be confined to Post Office Medical Officers, and this view has been communicated to the Department concerned.

Fees for Life Insurance Examination

The Council has pressed the Life Offices Association to increase by 20% the fees for medical examination for life insurance. The Life Offices Association has replied that the present scale was adopted in 1919 after the unprecedented increase of practice expenses and cost of living which was then at its peak; that although expenses and costs fell materially from that high level and even now are considerably below it the insurance offices have not sought for any adjustment in fees. On these grounds the Life Offices Association has expressed the hope that the Association will not seek to depart from the 1919 agreement. The Council proposes to press the claims of the profession, and it has asked the Life Offices Association to receive a small deputation.

The Council is glad to report that the Ideal Benefit Society and the Midland Counties Mutual Benefit Society have increased their fees for medical examination for life insurance.

National Deposit Society

The Council has also urged the National Deposit Friendly Society to increase the fees for medical treatment of its members by at least 20%. The matter is still under discussion with the society.

Contract Practice: Scottish Miners

The Council reports that, following upon protracted negotiations with representatives of the workmen, the following new rates have been agreed:

	Old Rate	*New Rate*	*Increase*
Fees for attendance on dependants (without medicine)	3½d. p.w.	5d. p.w.	43%
Fees for attendance on dependants (including medicine) ..	4½d. p.w.	6d. p.w.	33⅓%

Pay of Ship Surgeons

The Council is making representations to the Ministry of War Transport that as a wartime measure the basic salary for ship surgeons should be comparable with that of junior medical officers in the Services.

OPHTHALMIC

It has been decided to suspend for the time being the operation of the new conditions under the National Eye Service arising from the admission to National Health Insurance of non-manual workers with incomes from £250 to £420 per annum.

The Ministry of Supply is making provision for the examination of the eyes of workers in Royal Ordnance Factories. A deputation from the Association has urged upon the Minister the desirability of making available an ophthalmic medical examination as opposed to an examination by sight-testing opticians, and the Minister has undertaken to consider how far it will be possible to utilize the services of eye specialists in connexion with the proposed scheme for factory workers.

H. S. SOUTTAR,
Chairman.

BRITISH MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Election of 22 Members of Council by Grouped Branches in the British Isles and 2 Public Health Service Members

As a result of the nominations received for the election of twenty-two members of Council, the following have been elected for the session 1942-3: Weldon Watts (Newcastle-upon-Tyne); W. N. West-Watson (Bradford); A. Staveley Gough (Watford); S. Wand (Birmingham); L. W. Jones (Llanfairpwll); Arnold Alcock (Gloucester); R. H. Balfour Barrow (Winchester); G. W. Miller (Dundee); I. D. Grant (Glasgow); G. MacFeat (Douglas, Lanarks); F. M. B. Allen (Belfast).

No nominations have been received for Group H (comprising South Wales and Monmouthshire), Group M (comprising Kent and Sussex), Group O (comprising Edinburgh and Fife). For Group C (Isle of Man and Lancashire and Cheshire Branches) the following candidates have been nominated: R. Baring Davidson, Barbara M. L. Abercromby, F. M. Rose, R. L. Newell, E. I. Claxton; for Group D (Derbyshire, Leicester and Rutland, Lincolnshire, Nottingham), E. Lewis Lilley, F. Joselin Jauch; for Group I (Metropolitan Counties Branch), E. A. Gregg, V. Zachary Cope, Dame Louise McIlroy, W. W. Fox, P. Inwald, A. Phillips, H. H. D. Sutherland, M. F. Moloney, F. Gray, G. de Swiet, H. Vickers; for Group K (Dorset and West Hants, South-Western, Wiltshire), O. C. Carter, F. A. Roper, D. Stanley-Jones. Voting papers will be issued to the members of these Groups on June 20, 1942.

Public Health Service

The following, being the only candidates nominated for election as members of Council for 1942-3 by Public Health Service Members, are hereby declared elected for 1942-3: R. M. F. Picken (Cardiff), T. N. V. Potts (Wakefield).

G. C. ANDERSON,
Secretary.

GENERAL MEDICAL COUNCIL

MEDICAL CURRICULUM: SHORTENING OF CLINICAL STUDIES

The General Medical Council considered a report from its Education and Examination Committees, sitting jointly, on a recommendation received from the Minister of Health that the period of medical study might be shortened as an emergency measure. The extent of the modification proposed by the Medical Personnel (Priority) Committee was that students who produced evidence of having completed the whole of the curriculum after not less than thirty months of certified clinical studies should be admitted by the licensing bodies and examining boards to qualifying examinations. The Minister had intimated that he concurred generally with the recommendation. The Council's committees were satisfied that it was not in the public interest that the Council should offer objection to any departure of this extent from normal requirements as to the course of professional study for qualifications in medicine, surgery, and midwifery.

Sir JOHN STOPFORD pointed out that the report was not a recommendation to the licensing bodies to reduce the period of clinical studies; it merely asked them to consider the position in the light of the national situation and the local circumstances. If the licensing bodies found that they could speed up the course without lowering standards, then the Council would not stand in the way of a reduction provided it did not go below thirty months, and that there was an inspection.

The Council agreed to the recommendation and agreed also to inform the licensing bodies and examining boards that the Council proposed to arrange as soon as possible for an inspection on its behalf under section 3 of the Medical Act, 1886 (concerning the qualifying examinations held by medical authorities), of such examinations held by bodies or boards which adopted the proposal.

The PRESIDENT (Mr. Eason) said that the attitude of the Council was quite clear. It was saying only that if any licensing body thought fit to make the alteration referred to, the Council would raise no objection in the present emergency.

Other Education Business

Major General H. L. TIDY, chairman of the Education Committee, said that a letter had been forwarded to the Privy Council from the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Government asking that the subject of nutrition should be given more attention in the course of medical education. It was proposed, therefore, to call the attention of teaching schools and medical bodies to this desire.

General Tidy also said that the Board of Education had appointed a committee to deal with curricula and examinations and had asked the Council for information as to defects in the present school curriculum from the point of view of equipment for the medical profession and as to the extent to which pre-medical studies could profitably be pursued in schools. For example, was it better that the First M.B. examination should be taken from school rather than later? "There is," commented General Tidy, "an extraordinary simplicity about these two questions which does not always pertain to questions from Government offices; but they are large subjects, and the Education and Examination Committees consider that the best plan is to appoint a small subcommittee to consider the replies." A subcommittee was appointed, and another subcommittee under Sir Farquhar Buzzard was also set up to deal with a communication which had been received from the Ministry of Health Interdepartmental Committee on Medical Schools, asking for extensive information ranging over the whole of medical education.

The "British Pharmacopoeia"

Dr. CAMPBELL, chairman of the Pharmacopoeia Committee, stated that no copies of the *British Pharmocopoeia*, 1932, had been sold in the past year, the book being out of print owing to the difficulty in obtaining supplies of paper. Steps were being taken to press very strongly the need for paper for this purpose, and it was hoped to reprint it before October. He knew that the Council would wish to associate itself with the committee in thanking the Pharmacopoeia Commission for preparing the Fifth Addendum, published in May last, dealing principally with formulae providing concentrated preparations as substitutes for pharmacopoeial preparations containing substantial quantities of alcohol.

The D.P.H. Examination

Dr. JOHN RITCHIE, chairman of the Public Health Committee, said that the committee had continued its consideration of the replies and comments of licensing bodies on the proposals for the D.P.H. examination. As a result of comments received, on such questions, for example, as whether a two-days examination in practical bacteriology was necessary or desirable, the committee would go further into the matter and probably revise some of its recommendations. The present was not a convenient time for putting forward final recommendations on a matter of this sort. It might put the teaching bodies in considerable difficulty if they were called on to recast the D.P.H. examinations now. A final report would be made to the Council later at a more convenient time.

New Direct Representative

Dr. Frank Kane was elected a direct representative for Ireland for the period ending December next in place of Dr. Leonard Kidd, resigned. The Council deferred to next session the election of a direct representative for England in the room of the late Sir Henry Brackenbury.

POSTGRADUATE NEWS

The Fellowship of Medicine announces a revision course in anaesthetics from July 6 to 17; lectures daily, Mon. to Fri., 4.30 p.m. to 6 p.m., at Royal Cancer Hospital; practical demonstrations at various London hospitals. The course is primarily intended for members of H.M. Forces, but is open to any medical practitioner requiring a revision course.

WEEKLY POSTGRADUATE DIARY

FELLOWSHIP OF MEDICINE, 1, Wimpole Street, W.—*St. Stephen's (L.C.C.) Hospital:* Sat. & Sun. (June 27 and 28), Week-end course in rheumatism. *King Edward Memorial Hospital:* Sat. (June 27), 10 a.m., M.R.C.P. course in general medicine. *National Hospital for Diseases of the Heart*, Westmoreland Street, W.1: Tues. & Wed., 10 a.m., Out-patient clinics.

DIARY OF SOCIETIES & LECTURES

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MEDICINE.—*Tues.*, 4.30 p.m. Section of Medicine. *Sat.* (June 27), 12 noon. Section of Odontology, at Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead.

ROYAL NATIONAL THROAT, NOSE AND EAR HOSPITAL.—*Fri.*, 4 p.m. Mr. G. H. Howells: Ethmoiditis.

SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES OF LONDON, Black Friars Lane, Queen Victoria Street, E.C.—*Wed.*, 5 p.m. Strickland Goodall Memorial Lecture by Dr. William Evans: Triple Rhythm.

B.M.A.: Branch and Division Meetings to be Held

KENSINGTON DIVISION.—At British Postgraduate Medical School, Ducane Road, W., Tues., June 23, 3.30 p.m. General meeting. Agenda: Consideration of (1) Interim Report of Medical Planning Commission; (2) Annual Report of Council; (3) Supplementary Report of Council, etc.

NORTH STAFFS DIVISION.—At North Staffordshire Royal Infirmary, Tues., June 23, 8.30 p.m. Agenda: Consideration of (1) Annual Report of Council; (2) Interim Report of Medical Planning Commission, etc.

NORTH WALES BRANCH.—At Old Students' Common Room, U.C.N.W., Bangor, Thurs., June 25, 2.30 p.m. 93rd annual meeting. Discussion: "The Hospital Survey of the North-Western Region, with Special Reference to North Wales."

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, & DEATHS

BIRTH

HILL.—At Farnham, Surrey, on June 4, to Elsie (*née* Wade), the wife of Capt. Kenneth R. Hill, R.A.M.C., a son.